



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941-1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951-1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

NOV 20

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From the Editor

Dear members,

Welcome to our Coronavirus 19 Journal for 2020 and trust you have survived this pandemic with a great deal of optimism and hope for the future.

Our last Journal was delayed due to the virus as were so many other Association Newsletters and activities. We extend our sincere thanks to our printers for their professionalism and goodwill during these extremely difficult times.

As Australians we mourn the passing of those lost in the tragic bushfires, earlier this year, our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.

To the brave souls from distant

shores who died protecting our land we salute you and are heartbroken for the families you left behind.

We think of those in rural and remote towns as they face the heartbreak of rebuilding their lives and communities once again.

The Association proudly acknowledges members in all branches of support services, and we thank them for their service and ongoing commitment to their fellow Australians.

To our members forced to confront the fires that threatened their property and life we share your pain.

In this edition, we join a young Freda Murphy as she enlists into the

newly formed WRAAC in 1951.

We then follow June (Fazackerley (Saunders) a Driver in the AWAS as she looks back on her service.

The WRAAC Association (Vic) would like to once again thank Joan Weir, former Editor of the AWAS NSW newsletter for entrusting us with many of their stories and photographs. The items were published over many years with Joan as Editor of their newsletter, KHAKI. We thank them for their service and for their inspirational stories.

We then join our President Carol King and husband Grant and share their adventures touring Battlefields of the world. This edition we visit England, Belgium and Scotland.

We remember the late W01 Elizabeth Alice Gibson affectionately known as "Gibbo" who sadly passed away on the 13th March 2020.

We then look to our WRAAC family photos and stories and follow their adventures during these challenging times.

Keep safe and well.

Yours in friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM

— 2020 —
Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2020

- Saturday 14th WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. AGM
Shrine of Remembrance (possibly meeting
via zoom)
- Saturday 21st Cairn Pilgrimage and Lunch
Shrine Gardens T.B.A.
- Saturday 28th WRAAC Christmas Lunch
Austin Health, Heidelberg T.B.A

**February 2021
Journal Deadline**

*The deadline for all articles to be
included in the next Journal is*

FRIDAY 29TH JAN 2021

**Articles can be
posted or e-mailed to:**
Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address:
87 Westmelton Drive,
Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail:
johntreloar1@bigpond.com

From the WRAAC President



Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen
A warm hello from my home to yours.

This has been a challenging few months with lockdown and the risk of Covid 19. It has been difficult not to be able to visit family and friends, but we have come through worse before. I have been able to finish a lot of those UFO's (Unfinished objects) that have been in the cupboard for years. Made many a

phone call to friends and family to keep in touch, and the more relaxed lifestyle has been okay for me. The committee hopes all has gone well for you all during ISO (Isolation).

With our lockdown we have not been able to attend several functions in the last few months and our Annual Luncheon had to be cancelled. Look out 2021 we will be back and running as before.

On a sad note our beloved F31803 CSM WO1 Elizabeth Gibson passed away on 13th March. Elizabeth was such a role model to all of us, as recruits she was such a dominating impressive figure on the parade ground. Although once you got to know her what a treasure she was. Elizabeth will be sadly missed.

Another first, or should I say different ANZAC Day for 2020. Our usual Dawn and Day services and marches were cancelled, but from all accounts the day was celebrated by people standing in their driveways and listening to services over the radio or making their own service with neighbours. How did you spend ANZAC Day this year? Please let us know if you have some stories and photos.

With any luck and good management by the time you are reading this, we will all be back to some normality. Stay in touch with friends and family and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Carol (Hamilton) King

President

FOR YOUR DIARY

RSL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT SPRINGVALE WAR CEMETERY

At 1 pm on the Sunday preceding Remembrance Day, the annual RSL State Branch Remembrance Service is held at Springvale War Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance within the Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

All members of the of the community are invited and welcome to attend.

Last year the Address was given by Colonel Michelle Jane Campbell, Australian Army.

Below we present some information regarding Col. Campbell from RSL Website. Ed.

Colonel Campbell has a passion for preserving military customs and traditions as well as educating the community on the importance of commemoration, but her connection to these days of remembrance run

deeper than her own career; "For me, it's a moment to pause and reflect on my service but also my family connection, my grandparents helped out with war service...they lost a lot of friends. It's remembering them and also my service. It's a moment in time that you pause to reflect and be grateful."

Colonel Campbell was deployed to Afghanistan in 2014 as chief of the NATO Redeployment Fusion Cell and has been in the army reserve for 30 years. So when it comes to times of reflection during her military career, COL Campbell spoke about the importance of taking regular moments to pause and express gratitude; "We had services every Sunday morning because we lost people every week, we would read aloud the names of those that had lost their lives, everyone



was always welcome to attend."

She also talked to mateship; the friendships that are forged by the endearing bond of one inclusive mission; "More often than not it's hard times, but when you finish the hard times you come back and you reminisce together".

An eminent and compassionate leader, Colonel Campbell was

awarded the Article 5 NATO Meritorious Service Medal for 'distinguished service exhibiting outstanding leadership and exceptional contribution'. Throughout her time in the military, Col. Campbell took the time to encourage and mentor others, passing on the qualities that she had learned, equipping them to excel in leadership.

Today and for evermore, we reflect on the men and women such as Col. Campbell who have made sacrifices and continue to make sacrifices for our country.

It is through each individual and heroic sacrifice that is continually made for our country by our many brave servicemen and women that allow us to lead the exceptional quality of life that we lead today.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Sheryl English on the arrival of a beautiful Granddaughter, Alexia Violet English.

Alexia was born on the 1st April 2020 weighing an impressive 4.680kg (10lb 5oz)

Alexia pictured with her parents, Terrance, and Laura English.



100 YEARS YOUNG



Margaret Prowse and daughter Margaret Rodd

Congratulations to our much loved AWAS friend and fellow servicewoman, VF513128 Margaret (Matthews) Prowse. ESF Liaison AAPC who reached a milestone birthday on the 13 July 2020.

Our love and best wishes to you Margaret on 100 wonderful years.

The Association managed to see Margaret before lockdown 2 by standing on her front lawn and waving.



VF 397998 Jean (Wilkin) Smith
Chemical Warfare Unit.

Congratulations and best wishes to Jean on her 100th birthday.

It was wonderful to see her interview on television and to read her story in The Age (15th August 2020)

Well done Jean.

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Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Diane Sherry

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I:
(Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rank) (Surname) (Given Names)
Maiden Name (If Applicable): Date of Birth:
Address:
..... Postcode:
Telephone (Home): (Mobile): (Work):
Email Address:

Apply to become a Member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) Incorporated. In the event of my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Cost of Membership: Annual Membership (\$8.00 per year) Life Membership (\$80.00)

(Circle Type of Membership required) Payment Enclosed: Cheque. Cash. Other.

(Please Circle) - Branch of Service. ARA. CMF. ARES. AWAS. OTHER:

Regt No. WRAAC or Unit/s Served/Serving with Approx. Dates

.....
.....
.....
.....

Nominated By.

Name: Membership No:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

Miss Diane Sherry,
73/2 Gremel Road, Reservoir, Vic. 3073
Telephone: 0408 553 412
Email Address: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au



CONSENT FORM

I consent to the following details relating to myself and my service history being published in the Association Newsletter/Journal and Association website www.wraacvic.com

I understand that this information is for the purpose of advising other members of my joining the Association and with a view to renewing old friendships.

DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED

Service Number:

Given Names:

Surname:

Maiden Name (If Applicable):

Units Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signed: Date:

ONLY THOSE DETAILS FILLED IN BY THE APPLICANT WILL BE PUBLISHED

DO NOT COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM if you do not wish to have your details published. Your decision to publish or not will be respected without question

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY: Application Accepted. Yes / No. (Please Circle)

Meeting Date: Receipt No: Dated:

Annual Membership Card No: Date:

Life Membership Card Issued No: Date:

WRAAC Membership

We would like **YOU** to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA, CMF/ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer, Diane Sherry on **0408 553 412** or email **dishe1946@yahoo.com.au** and she will post out the appropriate form.

What did you do in ISO?

We loved this photo of Heather (Rankin) Fry's Granddaughter Lola, proudly wearing the scarf Heather knitted for her during Victoria's recent lockdown.

Heather tells us she has not picked up knitting needles for over 20 years.

Well done Nana Heather!



Our President has been busy doing cross stitch tablecloths and bookmarks



REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE 2019

11th November 2019

101st Anniversary

“At the Repat”

Several hundred veterans and guests gathered within the Acacia Room to remember those we have lost and to reflect on past conflicts.

Mr. Robert Winther OAM JP conducted the service with his usual inclusive style making all feel so very special to be part of this significant occasion.

This year five plaques were unveiled to commemorate the occasion.

Path of Horses

WW1 Mosaics

Sapper Plaques

Bailey Bridge

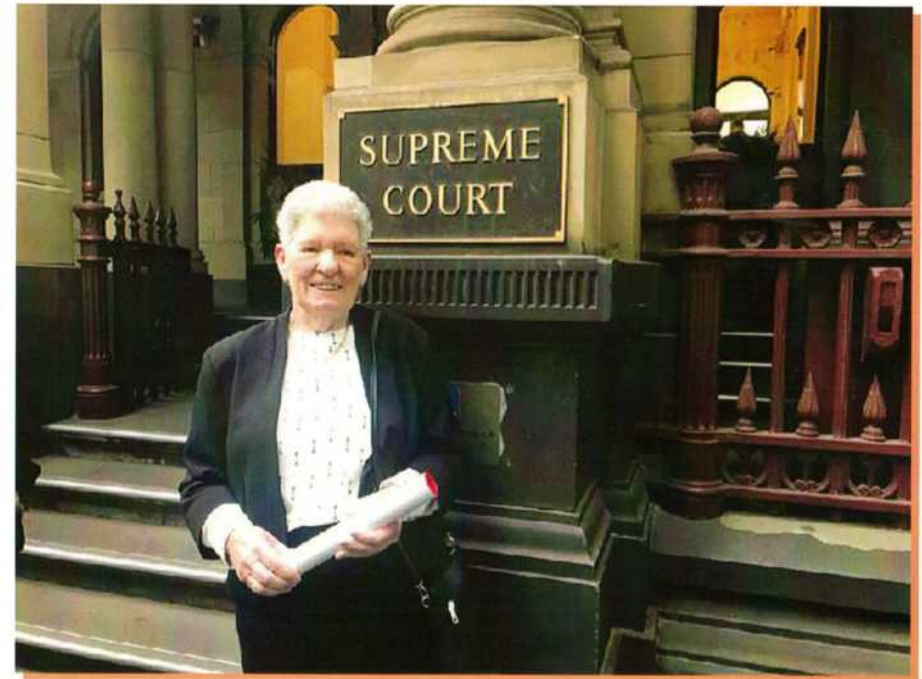
Peter Badcoe VC Stained Glass.

On behalf of the WRAAC and AWAS wreaths were placed by Maxine Pettingill and Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar OAM

Margaret (Robinson) Jager placed a wreath in memory of Reserve Forces with Margaret (Lister) Brown placing a wreath in memory of the Australian Women's Land Army.

Lest we Forget

Sgt. Helen (Haskell) Wilson



Congratulations and well done to Helen who was admitted to the Bar in November 2019

KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

11TH NOVEMBER 2019
REMEMBRANCE DAY



The WRAAC Association on behalf of members attended a Remembrance service at Killara Primary School on the 11th of November 2019.

The students and teaching staff put so much effort and thought into the service and the Association is so very proud to be a part of the day.

Following the service and on behalf

of members, Margaret (Robinson) Jager presented several books to the school Library in recognition of our ongoing partnership.

As we were walking back to the school a Grade 4 student approached us and asked would we like to read his poem titled, ANZAC DAY.

Here are Tyson's words (next page):



ANZAC DAY

Soldiers on the battlefield. Bullets everywhere you go.
You see blood on your mate's face. Bodies everywhere.
Gas being sent across the land. Hiding in trenches.

Scared of gunshots.

Someone next to you dead.

You gasping for air.

You were shot. Your last words to your mate were,

"Thanks"

Lest we forget

These are the words expressed by a Grade 4 student at Killara inspired by ANZAC Day and exceptional Teachers.

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK



We loved this photo of Hannah Willey (Aged 6) dressed in her Nth Melbourne footy gear. Hannah was a junior mascot for the AFLW game played at the Arden Street Oval in March.

Hannah is the Great Granddaughter of AWAS Staff Sergeant Rita (Dawson) Jager, and a treasured Granddaughter of WRAAC past President Margaret (Robinson) Jager.

Well done Hannah, we admire your spirit.

LOOKING BACK

AWAS MEMORIES FROM THOSE WHO SERVED OVER 70 YEARS AGO

KHAKI (circa 1990s)

*By Mrs. June Fazackerley (Saunders J.M)
Driver 6TH Aust. Ambulance Car Coy*

Well, here I was, bowling along the Midlands Highway, Central Tasmania, in an air-conditioned and, if necessary, heated vehicle (all mod cons included) on a road twice as wide as the one I had driven ambulances over, unaccountable times during World War II.

Suddenly my mind went into reverse voices and events from the past intruded upon my thoughts ••• "strip down to your singlets and pants" demanded the lady Corporal in charge (can't remember her name now). Dead silence ensued

"Come on ladies, the MO. hasn't all day: "MO" I wondered?

So, there we were, a 'herd of ladies', all weights, shapes and ages, the majority of us averting our eyes,

trying not to embarrass anyone.

Mind you, the Army quickly cured us of that little caper -

Remember the toilets and shower block at Brighton, girls? No doors?

And after I had been driving ambulances for a couple of months, nothing embarrassed me anymore.

But back to the beginning. Finally, one month after my 18th. birthday, I was inducted into the A.W.A.S. and we were no longer ladies, but 'PRIVATES'. We became the 5th. intake of A.W.A.S. personnel to do their 'rookie' course at the newly constructed Women's Training Centre at Broadmarsh.

My memory of that time is rather vague, mainly, I think, because, like



everyone else, I was too 'bushed' at the "end of the day" to remember anything much. Apart from Drill! Drill! Kitchen duties peeling spuds, scrubbing floors and having the fellers from near-by Brighton camp, at any and every opportunity, yelling at us, "You'll be sorry!" (which I never was) and playing monkeys on the overhead beams in the barracks after lights out, and our 'passing-out' parade; marching along the Broadmarsh road to the skirl of bagpipes on a blue and gold spring day, and my pride at being a part of that well-trained group of A.W.A.S. (some of whom are still very dear friends), I can't say I was sorry to leave Broadmarsh.

I was posted to the 'Pay Office' at Anglesea Barracks. Hobart, where I operated the Switchboard for a short time and was eventually 'claimed' by my sister, Helen, to do a Drivers and

Maintenance course. It was winter! Winter at Brighton was like doing penance at the South Pole, although I have always had a 'soft spot' for Brighton Camp. As usual, the Army had the peculiar habit of throwing all kinds and creeds together.

We eventually amalgamated (with the inevitable exceptions) into a fiercely loyal group of 'hopeful' drivers who, in the main, eventually spent the remainder of the war at the 111th. A.G.H. military Hospital at Campbell Town, Tasmania as ambulance drivers - but - back to Brighton and the O. and M. school.



The living conditions at Brighton were particularly spartan. Straw paillasses on the floor; the cold seeping into our bones - we almost rattled if we dared turn over; face washers clung to the window-ledges, frozen stiff: tooth brushes too, frozen like a

dead man's moustache and I don't really have to talk about 'early rising' and the four minute mile dash to get to the hot showers first and if you had a 'snorer' in the hut it was most unfortunate. However, we all took turns to sleep next to our offender and poked her ribs with a broomstick at the first tentative snort.

Respect for us as the gentler sex and potential drivers waned at a great rate (actually after about ten minutes) and our male instructors turned into domineering chauvinists who cursed all women drivers for their stupidity. However, in all fairness to them, they were really 'great fellers' and wonderful instructors. Mind you, as brand-new drivers (in the main), I must admit they often went a paler shade of white at some of our unpolished antics whilst learning to drive.

Bivouacs were their specialty though and they really got their own back. For instance, one very cold night and after a long day's driving, we were all snuggled up in bed when one of our instructors decided we'd have air-raid practice.

Well, there we were, floundering around in the dark, tripping over each other and generally upset by the turn of events. one of the

more timid was completely 'taken in' when her dressing-gown was caught by a stout-stick and shrieked, "Let me go". "Let me go!" She became a bit hysterical!

Mind you, our WO, who was master of ceremonies on all our bivouacs, confirmed my belief that familiarity does breed contempt, especially on that particular night. In hindsight, I can see him grinning in fiendish delight.

Finally, except for four or five drivers on the course, we were all transferred to the 111th. A.G.H. Military Hospital, Campbell Town in the midlands of Tasmania; became the 6th. Australian Ambulance Car Company and was the only Unit in Tasmania completely 'manned' by women.

Our arrival at the 111th. A.G.H. was without fanfare and it seemed to me at first, we had moved into an entirely new dimension. The Sisters in their long veils, A.M.W.S., some in Army issue uniforms, other volunteers not yet deflowered of their blue V.A.D. frocks (so much loved by them); the walking wounded in 'hospital blues'; rows and rows of hospital wards (Army style); the huge complex, hewn from almost virgin bush was to become our home for such a long time.



We had fourteen permanent ambulance drivers, except when one was doing refresher courses, or when anything else unusual occurred. Our unit boasted of six ambulances, one staff car and a utility, one of the ambulances was a Blitz Buggy (4-wheel drive) which I hated, It was like driving a large crippled elephant on an endless trampoline.

Like all ambulance drivers, we were "called out" at all hours of the night and day, always sharing the driving in pairs and also with a medical orderly

aboard. We performed our antics always with good grace, a sense of adventure and fun and of serving our country to the best of our abilities.

I might add here it was colder and hotter in this area (depending on the seasons) than it was at Brighton Camp, but the living conditions were far better. Because of the freezing cold nights, we emptied the radiators of our vehicles each night to stop the water from freezing and used half a raw potato to clear the ambulance windows each morning.

Unknown to our superiors, we used hot water bottles to keep our feet warm, especially on early morning trips, using one foot at a time for the accelerator and any gear or brake changes needing to be made. Like the remainder of the girls, I became adept at this aerobicic stunt.

Summertime was the opposite and we couldn't get enough cool air flowing through our vehicles.

Right from the beginning, our unit became a family - it was wonderful! During the three years we spent together, I can't remember a cross word passing between us. Lots and lots of laughs, though!

Our sleeping quarters were with the A.A.M.W.S. We also ate in the same mess. The food was excellent! Being in a hospital situation, we had the best.

Long and abiding relationships formed at that time with nursing staff have sustained over the years, and, having lived so long at the hospital, feel as if I belong to both services.

My thoughts even after all this time are often with the Ex-Prisoners of War, we brought back to the 111th. A.G.H. from the hospital ships - all so young and yet so old and all the other 'gallants' who

served their country so well. So much sadness, but always with a sense of hope for the future.

I wouldn't have missed my four years in the Armed Services for any of those 'civilian years' by-passed during the Second World 'War for (at that time) all the clothing coupons in Tassie! ••• Hi Hellie! ... Hi Tuppie! ••. Hi Gee-Gee! ••. Hi Phyll: ••• Hi Bing! ••• Hi Hetta, ••...••

A Tasmanian segment for 'Khaki' written by yours truly. I had such a lot of pleasure retracing a wonderful time in my life. Foraging around in my memory brought forth many incidents alluding to that time in my life, accompanied by lots of chuckles.

June M Fazackerley, (nee Driver: Saunders, J.M.) 6th Aust. Ambulance Car Coy. 111th A.G.H. Campbell Town, Tasmania.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE FORMATION OF ...

2nd Australian Ambulance Car Company

1942-1946

The first AWAS personnel were posted to the 2nd Australian Ambulance Transport Company stationed at the Royal Agricultural Showground, Sydney, in January 1942. This unit later became 2nd Australian Ambulance Car Company.

The initial intake of 40 drivers were already trained in driving heavy vehicles, maintenance, map reading, signals, first aid and service marching and drill. They were enlisted at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, on the 26th and 29th January 1942 and posted immediately to 2AATC. A third intake of 15 drivers followed on 6th February 1942. Some of these women were trained in a voluntary capacity by the Army through the National Defence League (NDL), and others by the Women's Australian

National Service (WANS) and the St John Ambulance Association.

AWAS recruits were required to pass through the Recruit Training centre, Killara prior to unit posting. The Centre was established in December 1941 and was ready for recruits in January 1942. Accommodation and facilities were overtaxed by the volume of enlistments. The drivers, urgently required for duty, were divided into two groups of 20, each spending 10 days at Killara. The third intake followed the same procedure. The shortened training period was accepted by the AWAS Administration because of the standard of discipline and drill attained during their training in the voluntary organisations prior to enlistment.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWAS uniforms were not yet available. The new recruits wore the uniform of the organisation to which they had belonged. The first army issue was gas masks and a waterproof ground sheet which could be used as a cape, commonly called a slicker. Next came greatcoats - male. It was some months before full uniforms were issued to all personnel.

Conditions for the new recruits to 2AATC were primitive. Those who

could do so lived at home, with friends or in rented accommodation, except when rostered for night duty, when those on call slept in the horse stalls. Bed was a bed board, supported by three bricks either end covered with a straw palliasse. Until facilities adjacent to the horse stalls were made available, latrine and shower parades were conducted at given times and escorted by a male NCO. Meals were taken in an adjacent mess hall. After an



"Open Sunday" when parents and friends were invited to inspect their service women on duty. the girls were moved from the horse stalls to the more habitable Wine Pavilion, supplied with beds and bedding, and a little more comfort in their introduction to service life.

On 5th March 1942 the Company was transferred to the Motor Transport Barracks, Avoca Street, Kingsford.

Here the structure of the Company was established under the command of Capt G.M. O'Connell, with a male administration staff, workshops supervised by Lieut later Capt Killen, senior NCO's, mechanics and a few male drivers who transported VD and other infectious disease patients to Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay.

The Company at full strength was made up of four Platoons. No. 1

Headquarters, No. 2 Ingleburn, No. 3 Bathurst, No. 4 Tamworth. Total personnel marched in for the period of operation was 427. Daily operational strength was approximately 210; this included Canteen Staff who worked as cooks and mess orderlies

Routine Orders Part II issued 25 October 1946 show the last unit member transferred to 2MD (Military District) and the end of an organisation in which all members served with immense pride and satisfaction in a job well done.

2AATC was the first unit manned by AWAS personnel to become operational in NSW.

With thanks to Joan Weir, former Editor of the AWAS NSW newsletter (KHAKI): Ed

A WRAAC STORY



Post war Australia was in no mood for Australian women to continue their role as highly trained and skilled service women so in 1947 we saw the disbandment of Women's services. However, within 3 years of this decision we then see a movement to reintroduce them.

This leads to our article from Freda (Templeton) Murphy who in 1951 spotted an advertisement for women to join the Military.

Freda went on to read an advertisement that invited women to join the WRAAC.

If we look at the history surrounding this monumental decision, we see the emergence of the Cold War plus the Korean conflict leaving Australia with a massive deficit of manpower.

Women, plus many who had previously served in the AWAS were sourced to become a nucleus for expansion in this time of need.

What skills would be required of the women the Military wanted? Initially, women with trade and clerical experience were required to take over the tasks males had been previously engaged in thus leaving the men free for traditional combat roles.

Future WRAAC leadership (Officers) would be available from the large pool of former members of the AWAS.

The shared values of service to country and duty are with many of us today. 'Esprit de Corps'

History also tells us that women enlisting into the WRAAC at this

time should not expect it to be a long-term career move as it was perceived to be a fill in until marriage. Remember, populate or perish was still the go, and at no time would you ever expect to see WRAAC members fighting alongside males. Females would be paid at 75 per cent of the male basic wage single or a widowed without dependent children.

There was no retirement plan!

Women enlisted for four years with the option of further four-year re-engagements. If you observe the initial uniforms worn by WRAAC, they appear to be WWII stock from the AWAS comprising of a khaki colour



as a member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

Freda Templeton F 3/40 enlisted into the WRAAC in 1951.

Freda writes,

Following an initial interview many of us were asked to report back to Royal Park on Monday the 2nd July 1951 for a second day of more interviews and by that afternoon 22 girls were members of the Army.

We had even been measured for our future green uniforms.

The next four days we went to Signals (Queens Rd Depot) then on the Saturday we went by bus to an old Army camp at Point Lonsdale and on arrival

dress worn with a tie and felt hat.

It would take a few years plus a considerable amount of thought was put into the iconic WRAAC uniform, revered by every member to this day. We now meet Freda who was ready for adventure.

A young Freda at 16 years of age had joined the Women's Air Training Corps, had a Father who served in both World Wars, and a Brother in the Navy which suggests she had a reasonable idea of what life in the Service of your country would entail.

Therefore, Freda enlisted with her parents blessing into this new and exciting chapter of her life





four of us were immediately taken aside to go on staff.

I went straight into Catering working alongside a male cook learning on the job as there was no Cooks school, it was on the job training.

The girls from South Australia arrived in the afternoon.

Fresh food was always available especially in Mildura during the picking season plenty of fruit was always available (all donated by the local growers)

On one Monday after lunch two other girls and myself were in the lunch

mess when Colonel Best happened to be passing by. As she had spotted us, she came in, sat down and began to talk with us. This would be the first of many times I would talk to her over the next six years.

Colonel Best was an extremely approachable person and never forgot a name or a face. During my training in Victoria, girls from New South Wales and Queensland were training in New South Wales. Recruit school was for four weeks and at the end of August the New South Wales camp was closed and came down to Point Lonsdale.

So, in early October the four States would join up. Then in February 1952 the girls from Western Australia and Tasmania joined us.

In March 1952 I was sent with other WRAAC personnel to Rosanna to open a house for an Officers school. The house at Rosanna was a Doctor's home and now is part of Watsonia Barracks.

There were eight Cadets for a six-week course followed by a six-week school for Snr NCOs.

At the end of June, we were posted to Mildura.

Then in 1954 I was posted back to Queenscliff for about eight months

before being posted to 6 camp hospital for over two years before going back to 31 WRAAC Bks.

There are certain things I remember during my service was a bus crash in Tasmania

In 1956 / 57, members of the WRAAC were involved in a bus crash in Tasmania. (refer clipping)

We also had lots of fun and laughter in Catering as you see from "Standing Orders for Kitchens"

In 1957 I took my discharge after six years of service.

I loved my time with the WRAAC and would not have changed anything



Loaded army bus in crash

A MILITARY bus carrying a party of members of the W.R.A.A.C. to Fort Direction for a week-end bivouac was involved in a collision with a truck early last night.

THE bus was travelling towards Bellerive when it collided with a city-bound truck at the foot of Rosny Hill near the Royal Hobart golf course.

Another bus took the young women to the camp. The vehicles blocked the road for about three-quarters of an hour and at one time a mile line of vehicles was held up. Patrol cars were called to clear the road.

The truck was extensively damaged and the bus put out of action.

One casualty was one of the W.A.A.Cs, who was taken to Brighton Hospital for treatment.

HQ TASMANIAN COMMAND

Reply Please Quote: NUTS

STANDING ORDERS FOR KITCHENS

1. It has been brought to the notice of the adjutant that many cooks have been dying whilst on duty for apparently no good reason at all.

2. Where it can be proved that cook is held up by a dixie, table, frying pan, stock pot or any other implement which the property of the department of the Army, a 90-day period of grace will be granted.

3. The following procedure will henceforth be strictly adhered to: -

If after several hours it has been noticed that a cook has not moved or changed position, the orderly Cpl will be called to investigate. Because of the highly sensitive nature of our cooks and the close resemblance between death and their natural working attitude, the investigation will be made quietly so as to prevent waking the cook if she happens to be asleep.

If some doubt exists as to her true condition the call "Pay Parade" is a fine test. If the person concerned does not immediately

fly out of the kitchen it may be reasonably assumed that she is dead. *NOTE: In some cases, even after death the instinct to extend the hand for pay is so strongly developed that a spasmodic "CLUTCHER REFLEX ACTION" may occur even after death.*

4. In all cases a sworn statement by the dead person must be filled in on a special form provided for the purpose. 15 copies Will be made out. 3 will be sent to CENTRAL ARMY RECORDS OFFICE, 2 to COMMAND HQ 1 to the deceased and the other will be promptly lost in the Orderly Room's numerous files.

Signed:

**CA COFFIN (Capt)
GRAVES REGISTRATION UNIT**

From the Editor: Thank you Freda for your service and sharing your wonderful memories with us.

WRAAC 70th ANNIVERSARY

PERTH 2021

Due to Covid; WRAAC Association (WA) have cancelled this event and rescheduled it to 2022

Further details will be advised when known.



WRAAC 70th Anniversary
Perth Reunion

12 - 14 February 2021

Hosted by WRAAC Association (WA)

Email: wraac70@hotmail.com

Postal address: WRAAC 70, PO Box 309, HAMILTON HILL WA 6863

WRAAC 70th Functions

Friday 12 Feb 2021	1700hs	Sunset Service at Kings Park State War Memorial Precinct Fraser Ave Perth Dress: Smart Casual Medals Free
Friday 12 Feb 2021	1830 - 2030	Meet & Greet at Frasers Restaurant Fraser Ave Perth \$70 (canapes, purchase own alcohol)
Saturday 13 Feb 2021	1800 for 1830	Platinum Dinner at Hyatt Regency 99 Adelaide Terrace Perth Cost \$130+ alcohol own cost Dress: After 5 with miniatures
Sunday 14 February	1130 - 1230	Church Service at St George's Cathedral 38 St Georges Terrace Perth Free

Free public transport in Perth CBD accesses all events

This article was taken from Facebook

WRAAC ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

*DUCKBOARD FUNCTION ROOM
AT THE REPAT
30th November 2019*

The wonderful 'Repat' provided the venue for a happy pre-Christmas gathering of former AWAS and WRMC members, family and friends.

The Duckboard function room adjacent to Acacia room is a great entertainment area with access to the Remembrance garden, the Chapel and the magnificent Murals, all within walking distance.

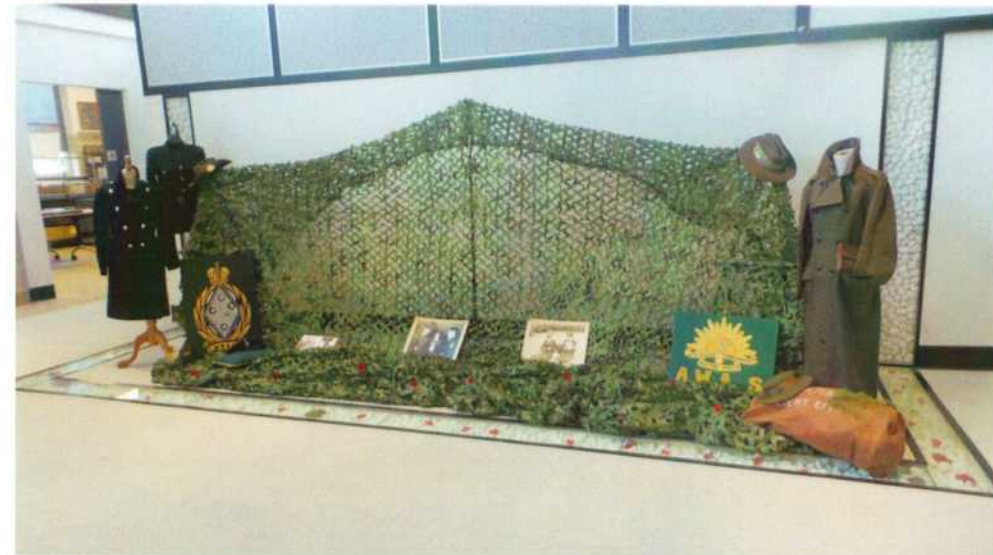
Committee members plus our dear friend Maxine Pettingill prepared the area the day before to give the appearance of a an ORs mess.

Two large tables in the centre of the room decorated with pinecones, gum leaves and tinsel added to the spirit of Christmas.

We were thrilled to welcome Pauline (Bartlett) Priestly 5th Aust Movt Control HQ and Gloria Welch WAAAF who joined us on the day as it's always an honour to have our WW11 veterans with us.

As this year was such a success, we intend to do it all again in 2020, therefore we suggest you keep the last Saturday in November free.

The Association sincerely thank Veteran Liaison Officers Robert Winther and Siobhan Hodgkins for their help and support in making the day such a happy event.





ANZAC DAY

25TH APRIL 2020

Due to the lockdown, Australians were asked to commemorate ANZAC DAY 2020 in their own special way. So, we decided to ask our members about their day.

VERMONT 3133

Jude writes,

I joined my neighbours at 6am on a rather balmy ANZAC DAY morning to reflect and acknowledge the sacrifice of so many so we may enjoy the freedom we have today.

Our friends and neighbours gathered (at the designated distance) holding candles and torches to signify the unity and respect we all felt.

As I looked around and observed the faces of my neighbours, I felt so proud of my country and the groundswell of unity that wrapped around us and held us together for that brief moment in time.



On the opposite side of the road a WWII Veteran stood to attention in front of the Australian flag. He had placed the flag there the day before with photos depicting his RAAF war service.

He was a Navigator, a role that must keep the aircraft on course, reach a target and then get the hell home. He is now a sprightly 96 years young and confided he rarely acknowledged ANZAC DAY as it was too painful.

This year was different he whispered, this year he would join his neighbours and evoke the spirit of camaraderie that prevails.

He also said he had met a few AWAS in his time, whatever that meant!

It was a special day and one many of us will never forget for so many reasons.

CROYDON 3136

Ron and Ruth Smith commemorated ANZAC Day by setting the alarm at 5am and dressed ready to start the day at the end of their drive with the neighbours opposite playing the last post on their mobile phone. They decorated their bird bath with rosemary and red geraniums, with the white dove of peace and a candle burning in recognition of the day.



MELTON 3337

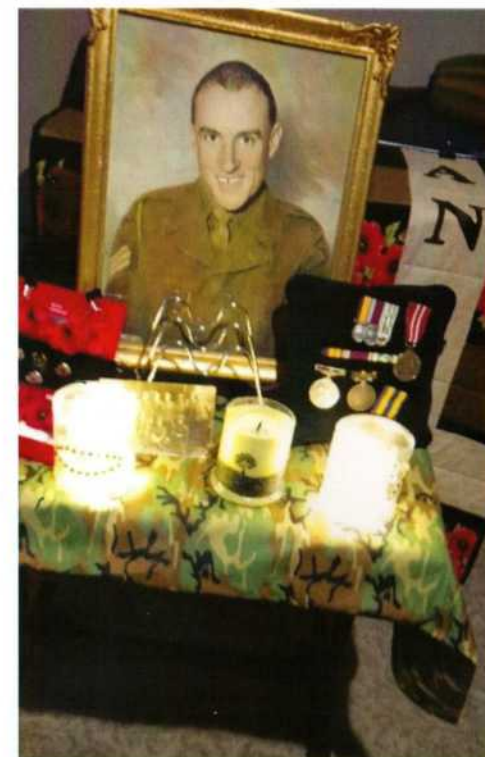
Margaret and Ian Jager sent this photo of their Grandchildren Hannah and Ryan Willey proudly wearing their Grandparents medals in preparation for the Dawn Service. Note the rocks in the photo! The children had painted poppies on them the week before especially for ANZAC Day.



BURWOOD EAST 3151

Maxine Pettingill acknowledged her late husband Mel's military service by decorating a table with his service medals.

Mel was a Vietnam Veteran and passed away in 2017



TRARALGON 3844

Sheryl English pictured outside her home in Gippsland taking the salute.

Well done Sheryl.



SUNBURY 3429

Killara Primary school had a virtual service this year using photos from past services commemorating ANZAC Day which was heartbreaking for so many of us as the Association usually participates in their service.



VE DAY 2020

8TH MAY 1945

VE day 2020 was observed in rather somber conditions as the free world stopped to reflect on that day 75 years ago.

Nazi Germany had surrendered to the Allies and celebrations began around the world.

London was euphoric as the realisation that life could possibly resume once again.

Australia, however, was much more subdued as the war with Japan was still ongoing and would remain so until the 15th August 1945, VP DAY.

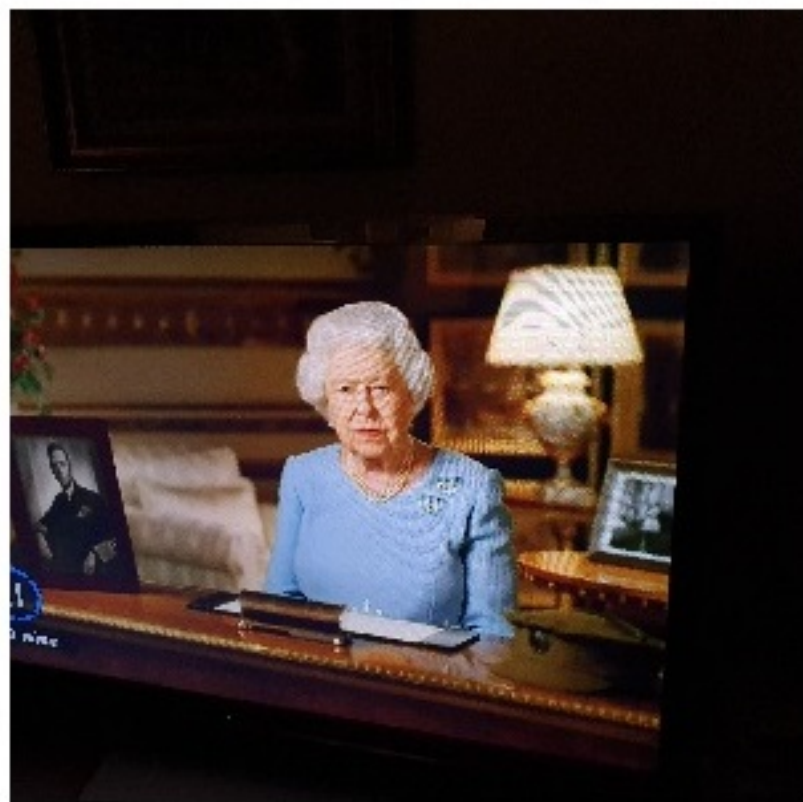
Did you happen to notice the photo of Queen Elizabeth II with her Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) hat proudly sitting on her desk during her speech on VE Day.

The Queen was truly proud of her service and trained as a military truck driver and mechanic.

She was 18 years old and today remains the only female

member of the Royal Family to have joined the Military.





VP Day

15TH AUGUST 1945



The 15th August 1945 was a day to remember for young and old as they danced and cheered in towns and cities around Australia.

We would like to share a photo with you of a young lady who happened to turn 17 years of age on this momentous day.

To WRAAC Membership Officer

Diane Sherry, she is her Auntie Marj and part of the iconic image of young Australians ready to embrace the future.

Auntie Marj is the young lady in the middle wearing a striped top and the young chap dancing appears to be looking directly at her.

The image gives us a snapshot of



a time in Melbourne when life was ready to burst forth and enjoy a world where peace was at last a reality.

Auntie Marj is now living in beautiful Queensland and a much-loved Aunt to Diane.

Thanks to Diane for reminding us of her Aunt's VP story.

It made us so proud to see our much-loved Phoebe Parker (Sigs) grace our Television news on VP day, 2020 and speak so eloquently about her service.

Well done Phoebe.

Phoebe celebrated her 100th birthday in 2019.

TRAVELLING WRAAC

EXCURSIONS TO BATTLEFIELDS OF THE WORLD.

Carol & Grant King

Grant and I have been very lucky to have had several overseas trips, many of which included well know battlefields. Grant is ex-military, and I have nearly every generation with a member in the military.

Hopefully we can take you with us on some of our excursions (in no special order) which we've seen together; Grant has obviously seen a few more having been deployed to Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor but he was 'flying solo' at the time so we haven't counted them. Please note, the historical information contained was sourced from a number of sites, mostly 'Wikipedia', 'Britannica' and various other WWW sites.



Culloden/Stirling - Scotland

The battle on Culloden Moor was the final confrontation of the Jacobite rising of 1745. On 16 April 1746 the Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart were decisively defeated by Hanoverian forces commanded by William Augustus Duke of Cumberland, near Inverness in the Scottish Highlands.

Here we were able to do a walking tour around of the battlefield. Of note were the various markings where the various clans formed up. The battle lasted about one hour with the Jacobite's suffering a bloody defeat, between 1500 and 2000 Jacobite's were killed or wounded. We noted that several Scottish clans aligned with the British. The conflict was to be the last pitched battle fought on British soil. The fields are still lush and green and as with most battlefields' artefacts are still being found.

We also visited Stirling Castle where in 1746 the Jacobite's unsuccessfully besieged the Castle for two months. The view from the Castle is 360 degrees and the perfect location to observe the surrounding terrain however, we found the Castle itself to be quite dark and cold.

The thing I liked was in one of the rooms several ladies were crafting beautiful tapestries. Another activity we did here was a William Wallace talk. Here they explained that, like most movies, a degree of license was used in the making of the movie Braveheart, i.e. in the movie Mel Gibson draws a broad sword from the scabbard on his back - a physical impossibility as the sword's length is longer than the human arm, unless you're a nine-foot giant!!

Glenfinnin was the location that Bonny Prince Charlie landed to commence battles with the English to regain his crown. Here, there is a monument to this fact. Also, at this side is the Scottish railway bridge that is used in the Harry Potter Films.

Just loved Scotland the rolling green hills and country roads. Lots of castle ruins along the roadside wherever you drive.

Another place we visited in Scotland was Fort George (North Scotland - Inverness) built to stop the perceived invasion of the Russians. It never has fired a shot in anger and if it were to be built today, the cost would be in excess of a billion pounds!



Battle/Hastings - England

Whilst in England we travelled to Hastings to see if we could find the battle site of 1066 AD. We happened to be there on a holiday weekend and there were cars everywhere and only just crawling to seemingly nowhere - the proverbial "highway car-park" - so in frustration we turned off and decided to head back to our accommodation ('Broome Park' in Kent once owned by Lord Kitchener although he never lived there) and came across the town of Battle, the site, no less, of the Battle of Hastings, lucky us!

Battle is a lovely little British town,

main street of old cottages and lots of flowers. At the end of the street is what looks like the entrance to a castle, and here you get audio headphones to do a self-guided tour of the battlefield, done at your own pace.

The Battle of Hastings was fought for the Crown of England between William, the Duke of Normandy and the recently enthroned Harold Godwinson. The battle lasted from 9am to dusk. The English army consisted of 7000 men made up of mostly infantry and a few archers. William's Army was made up of 10,000 men, about half was infantry with a quarter each of archers



and cavalry. With either side failing to gain the upper hand William's forces pretended to flee in panic and then turned on their pursuers. Harold died probably near the end of the battle as a result of an arrow to the eye. William was crowned King on Christmas Day, 1066.

We really enjoyed walking around the battlefield, self-guided and armed with a personal recorder which you played when you got to a particular location, very good and very informative. After the tour we went on to see the Abbey erected in honour of the Battle, and built by William as ordered by the Pope, Alexander II.

Waterloo - Belgium

Whilst visiting a friend in Belgium (he was working at NATO HQ) we were surprised when he asked us if we would like to go to the Waterloo site. At that stage we didn't realise we were so close, in fact it's only about 17 kilometres from Brussels.

The battle of Waterloo was fought on Sunday 18 June 1815 near Waterloo in Belgium, part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands at the time. The battle was fought between the French Army under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte, and was defeated by two of the Armies of the Seventh Coalition,



the British lead Allied Army under the command of Arthur Wellesley, the First Duke of Wellington and a Prussian Army under the command of Field Marshall Gebhard Leberecht von Blucher. Waterloo was the decisive engagement of the Waterloo campaign, and Napoleon's last. The defeat at Waterloo ended the rule of Napoleon as French Emperor.

The site of the battlefield today is dominated by monument of the Lion's mound. Constructed from earth taken from the battlefield itself. It's a climb of about 120 stairs, but worth the view, and yes, we struggled to the top.

Also, on the site is a 360-degree diorama of the battle. A most impressive representation of the battle and impressive detail.

This site is only about a half hour drive from Brussels and you can do a tour of the battlefield.



VALE



F31031 CAPTAIN GRACE ADYE (DOUGLAS) WALKER
9TH APRIL 1927 - 7TH JANUARY 2020



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Captain Grace Walker.

A young Grace Douglas enlisted into the WRAAC in 1952 following an adventurous life of travel, study and amazing work experiences.

Grace was selected to be an official door opener for the Royal visit in 1954 and duly carried out her task with great dignity.

Grace joined the CMF 1960 on FTD Adj/ QM.

She was discharged from the Army in 1967.

In 1964 Grace married Tom Walker and was then a member of 3 WRAAC and Sister-In-Law of Captain Gwen Walker. RFD ED

Grace Walker continued her love of travel following her discharge and became involved in her local community and the establishment of an Ambulance Station at Emerald (Victoria)

The Walker family were involved in the devastating Black Friday bushfires and managed to save their home.

Grace was a woman of her time and a fearless one at that.

Our sincere condolences to Catherine and family on the loss of your Mother.

On behalf of the Association, Margaret Jager and Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM attended the service for Captain Grace Walker.



CONDOLENCES



VF 345712 Alice Emma (Edmonds) Draper
18th June 1924 – 22nd January 2020



Alice Edmonds enlisted into the AWAS in 1942.

On completion of recruit training Alice, a clerk joined 3HQ Salvage and attained the rank of Corporal.

Alice was discharged from the Army in 1946 having served for 4 years and 2 months.

In civilian life Alice was an active participant in her Church Choir and associated activities.

Alice lived a full and productive life and will be sadly missed.

She enjoyed her former Army mates' company and always looked forward to AWAS reunions.

Our sincere condolences to Alice's family on your loss.

Rest in Peace

On behalf of all members Margaret Jager and Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM attended Alice's service.

F31803 W01 ELIZABETH GIBSON RFM ED

9th April 1927- 13th March 2020

What do you say about a woman who could spread terror through the heart of a recruit but always had your back and interest at heart?

Elizabeth Gibson was an enigma and to those she trained and nurtured are certainly the better Soldier for it.

Elizabeth Gibson represented all that was required of a fully engaged member of the WRAAC.

Upright, decent and true to her country of birth and to her Corps.

Her era will never be seen again as today's values are quite different to the time so many of us remember. You will be sadly missed Maam.

Here is a copy from Sassenach (Circa 1957) when Elizabeth was a recruit at 8 WRAAC Coy.

We also have a copy of Elizabeth's Military history collated by her dear friend and fellow member of the WRAAC, Heather (Rankin) Fry.

Heather gathered this information for Elizabeth's 80th birthday celebrations in 2007.



SASSENACH

8WRAACCOY

Rookie Camp Personalities

Name: "GIBBO"

Favourite Occupation:

Wearing slippers to evening mess. (!!!?)

Dislikes: Fatigues.

Likes: Officers' Anteroom at Mt Martha.

Ambition: To have a reserved seat in the Officers' Anteroom for future use.

Pet Saying: Now isn't that gorgeous.

Name: "SHORTY"

Favourite Occupation:

Eating in bed.

Dislikes: 30" paces.

Likes: Custard pies and Swiss rolls

Ambition: To grow --- "up".

Pet Saying: Wait for me.

ARMY CAREER

Reason for enlisting:

Casually met two girls who were members of 8 WRAAC Coy, was so impressed with their uniforms that Elizabeth decided to join.

Date enlisted: 1 May 1956

Promotions: to Corporal - 11 April 1962

to Sergeant - 21 August 1963

to Warrant Officer Class 2 - 28 February 1966

to Warrant Officer Class 1 - 2 September 1974

Career in the army:

After recruit training went to Ordnance Corps for a short term,

When returned from leave, taken to travel overseas, became a recruit instructor and continued in this role for a period of 12 years.

Transferred to RAAPC DET 15 January 1974 ultimately becoming a Training Officer for the Pay Corps

and held this position for 4.5 years until discharged from the army.

Personal achievements:

Was selected to represent 3WRAAC Coy to meet our Colonel in Chief, HRH Princess Margaret, At Melbourne Town Hall.

Was selected to represent 3 WRAAC Coy to attend the MBE medal presentation to Maj Jessie Perkins at Government House, Melbourne.

Qualified in SMG F1 machine gun and 9 mm pistol.

Was always pleased to pass exams but the ultimate reward was when promoted to W01 as it was the first time a female reservist achieved this rank in Australia.

Was granted Military Title Warrant Officer Class 1 upon retirement. This was an honour as it was not normal procedure for this to be granted to personnel below the rank of an officer.

Awarded Efficiency Medal (EM) - 24 September 1974.

Discharged: Discharged from army at own request on 3 July 1978

STORIES / YARNS OF INTEREST

When at a camp at Mt Martha was unable to find her PJs and later located them hanging in a tree.

At a camp in Bandiana, after short sheeting Capt McLaren's bed was made to march, with the other culprits, up a hill at the back of the camp as punishment.

At another Mt. Martha camp, Elizabeth fell down some steps on her way to the parade ground. The recruits on the parade ground called out to another training Warrant Officer to draw her attention to Elizabeth's plight. With help, Elizabeth rose gingerly to her feet and hobble down the path, each step an improvement on the last. On reaching the parade ground, marched on in her best military fashion and then roared at the recruits stating that under no circumstances were they to talk on the parade ground.

Elizabeth was affectionately called canary legs and tangle foot for the amount of times she fell over sometimes resulting in an injury.

F31823 FRANKS (HARVEY) PATRICIA (PAT)

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Patricia who passed away peacefully on the 5th September 2020.

Patricia enlisted (8WRAAC Coy) 25th June 1958 and discharged on the 13th July 1960.

She continued to serve her community as Secretary of the Altona RSL and was a Life member of the RSL.

Our sincere condolences to Patricia's family and friends at this sad time.

VF 513413 HELEN (MULHOLAND) LITTLEJOHN AWAS (SIGS)

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Helen on the 9th February 2020.

Helen was a valued member of the AWAS Association (Victoria) committee for many years.

Rest in peace Helen.

RONALD WILLIAM JOHNSON (NAVY)

Our sincere condolences to Brenda and family at the loss of Ron who passed away on the 27th December 2019.

Brenda served with the AWAS and WRAAC.

Rest in Peace Ron.

F31763 BALL (PRATT) MARGARET



Early Life

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Margaret who passed away on 9th July 2020.

This is the story of Margaret Brenda Ball nee Pratt.

A devoted wife, a cherished mother, and a treasured grandma and the wonderful person she was.

Margaret's family of origin lived in a

leafy Stanley Grove in Canterbury. Her father: Alexander Leslie Pratt had a Scottish background and her mother: Ethel May Heaney had an Irish heritage. Her sister Joan Alice was born before Margaret.

Margaret was born on 9 July 1932 in a private hospital in East Camberwell. Margaret attended

the Mangara Road Primary School in Canterbury until it was taken over by the military in WW2. She then shifted to Deepdene Primary in Burke Road. For her secondary education Margaret travelled to East Melbourne to the Presbyterian Ladies College which was then located in Victoria Parade. Margaret really wanted to become a kindergarten teacher, but her father didn't support that plan, but she enjoyed teaching at the Sunday School attached to the Presbyterian Church in Canterbury Road.

After leaving school she attended Stott's Business College and graduated with a high proficiency in typing and a very well-developed

skill in Pitman's shorthand. This background made her an excellent prospect for secretarial work. Her first job was with J. B. Were, a stockbroking firm, and then she obtained a position at the Gas and Fuel Corporation in Flinders Street. Her responsibility was as secretary to the Budget Manager, Vic Hill who also had an administrative role as a Captain in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) with 3 Psychology Unit.

From 1953 to 1958, Margaret also became a member of the CMF rising to the rank of Sergeant and became a life member of the WRAAC Association.

Our sincere condolences to Margaret's husband Ian, family and friends.

SP83903 JAMES (CRUM) RITA



16 Oct 1943

66 Australian Anti Aircraft
Search Light Battery

18 Nov 1944

55 Australian Anti Aircraft
Search Light Battery

14 July 1945

Headquarters South Australia
Lines of Communication Area.

18 Sept 1946

3 Australian Women's Army
Service Composite Unit

ATTACHMENTS :

- Australian Women's Army Service
Non Commissioned Officer Course
12 March 1945 - 21 April 1945.
- #### Honours And
Awards #####
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Australia Service Medal 1939-1945
- General service badge

Although her service may seem
such a small portion of her life for
her family & friends, her honours
& awards show that her work
ethics carried & supported her

It is with great sadness we report the
passing of Rita in September 2020.

Rita enlisted (AWAS) on the 24th
August 1942 and discharged
13th February 1947 attaining the
rank of Corporal (Bombadier)

Rita's postings include as follows.

24 Aug 1942

Australian Woman's Army
Service Reception Depot

14 Sept 1942

58 Australian Anti Aircraft
Search Light Battery

13 Oct 1943

55 Australian Anti Aircraft
Search Light Battery

throughout her life afterwards.

We thank you Rita James for
your service & give your family
past & Present thanks for their
support to you during your service
& in your life afterwards.

We extend our sincere
condolences to Rita's family
and friends at this sad time.

Our gratitude to Margaret
Handte, Funeral Officer Ringwood
RSL (Sub-Branch Inc.)

Our heartfelt thanks to family and
friends of loved ones recently
passed for taking the time to inform
the Association of their passing.

We share your pain as we
acknowledge their service.

F31704 CAPTAIN WALKER GWENDA RFD ED



It is with great sadness we report
the passing of F31704 Captain
Gwenda Margaret Walker RFD ED.
passed away peacefully at her care
facility on the 11th October 2020.

Gwenda also served with the
Australian Army during World War II
with the AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S
ARMY SERVICE (AWAS) attaining
the rank of Corporal. Her Veteran
details include the following.

WRAAC years

In 1953 Gwenda enlisted into the
WRAAC CMF Southern Command,
where she was one of six women
in the initial intake having had
previous Military experience.

Gwenda became Transport Officer
circa 1966 at Wadey Street (399 Tpt
Pt) following a move from Grosvenor.

On attaining the rank of Captain
Gwenda was Adjutant Orderly Rm

(FTD) 3WRAAC Coy Kew. Captain Gwenda Walker retired from Service life in 1975. Rest in Peace Ma'am.

Memories of Captain G WALKER.

In the early days of 8WRAAC COY Gwenda as Transport Officer, organized the distribution of food parcels and briquettes to Pensioners in the Richmond area.

There would be WRAAC members packing food parcels with Christmas goodies, loading bags of briquettes into the vehicles for our Transport Drivers to deliver.

Gwenda also organized many Car Trials and Obstacle courses for members on our free weekends. They were always followed by a picnic. Such good fun times.

Gwenda was long time Membership Officer and Vice President of the AWAS Association Victoria. Accepting the role of President on the passing of her dear friend, Major Jessie Perkins.

Our sincere condolences to Gwenda's family and friends at this sad time

World War Two Service

Veteran Details

Name: - Walker, Gwenda Margaret

Service: - Australian Army

Service Number: -
VF514441 (FJ 1704)

Date of Birth: - 06 Nov 1925

Place of Birth: - Tallangatta, Vic

Date of Enlistment: - 26 Nov 1943

Locality on Enlistment: - Elwood, Vic

Place of Enlistment: - VIC

Next of Kin: - Walker, Margaret

Date of Discharge: - 08 Apr 1947

Rank: - Corporal

Posting at Discharge: - Australian
Womens Army Service

Prisoner of War: - No

Honours: - None for display

Memorial Service

The WRAAC Association Victoria will hold a memorial service at the WRAAC Plaque for those we have lost during 2020.

It could possibly coincide with our AWAS WRAAC Service in May 2021. lest we forget.

LT COL DIANA JOAN LOBB MBE (RTD)

8th June 1930- 17th July 2020



Major Diana Lobb inspects the guard at Victoria Barracks yesterday — the first woman to do so in the barracks' 100-year history. With her is the Regimental Sergeant-Major of the barracks, Warrant-Officer Mick Cole.

Our sincere condolences to the President and members of the WRAAC Association NSW on the passing of their highly respected Patron, Lt Col Diana Lobb MBE (Rtd) WRAAC/RACT

In June 1971 Diana Lobb was appointed Member to the order of the British Empire and in 1978 she became the first woman

to review guards at the 2nd Military District Headquarters Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

In 1978 she also became the Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor of WRAAC School, Sydney.

She will be sadly missed.

Reference; The Australian Women's Register.

DAME VERA MARGARET LYNN
CH DBE J OSTJ

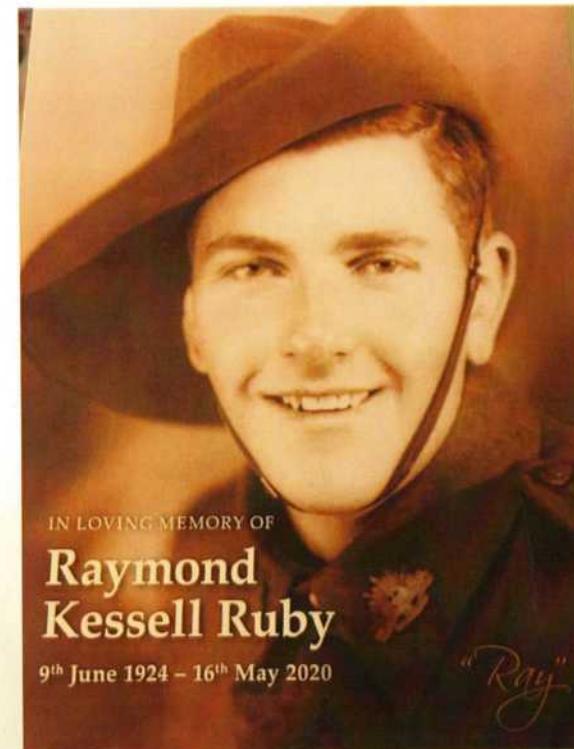
20TH March 1917-18th June 2020



Rest in peace Dame Vera.
So dearly loved by so many.

VX 125377 RAYMOND KESSELL RUBY

9th June 1924 - 16th May 2020



Our heartfelt condolences to our dear friend Brenda (Ruby) Walters on the passing of her much loved and respected father, Raymond Ruby.

Raymond enlisted AIF, August 1942 age 19 (following a failed attempt to enlist when he was only 17). His first

attempt failed as his Mother found out and put a stop to that plan. Raymond trained at 7th Division training facility at Tenterfield on 303's and Bren guns. In 1943 he went to Port Moresby with the 2/27th and then saw action in the Ramu Valley. On the 1st July 1945 he was

transported to Moroti (Indonesia) then Balikpapan, Borneo, the last Division to invade the South Pacific.

When peace was declared Raymond was sent on to Macassar, the capital of the Celebes Island to guard Japanese POWs.

Brenda recalls her Dad always kept the family amused with tales of his time in the Army and always spoke in positive terms regarding his service and of the great mateship he enjoyed with his fellow comrades.

Bren recalls one story he told the family was about a Christmas at Shaggy Ridge (Ramu Valley, New Guinea) where he managed to procure some flour and sultanas and was making a Christmas pudding with sniper bullets zinging overhead.

Raymond returned to Australia in

1946, just prior to his marriage to Olive on the 31st October 1946 and had three beautiful children, Neil (dec) Brenda and Karyn.

Raymond was proud of his time in the Army and often talked about the guidance he received from NCOs and his Commanding Officers.

He travelled to South Australia every Anzac Day to march with his mates, only stopping when they passed or were unable to march anymore.

Rest in Peace

WRACC Association Victoria conveys its deepest sympathy to Brenda and Rod, the Ruby and Walters family at this sad time.

BATTLE OF SHAGGY RIDGE

10th October 1943 - 23rd January 1944

Shaggy Ridge was one of the hardest places to fight anywhere in the Pacific.

Australian troops had to scale the steep sides of the mountain whilst under fire in an attempt to make progress along a narrow ridge.

It was a key position overlooking a route from Dampu in the Ramu Valley with the Japanese well entrenched with machine guns and barbed wire on top of the ridge. Brenda's late father was there and it must have been hell on earth for our boys.

Suggested reading:

On Shaggy Ridge: The Australian Seventh Division in the Ramu Valley.

On Shaggy Ridge details the dramatic but little-known story of the 1943-1944 Ramu Valley campaign in New Guinea which culminated in the battle for Shaggy Ridge.

"Drawing on extensive records that are brought to life by the recollections of over 140 veterans and illuminated

by the author's own journeys to the region, Phillip Bradley brings the battlefield to the reader. The detailed story unfolds as it took place with maps and dramatic photos helping to complement the text. Without neglecting the key strategy and command issues, the book has been written from the soldier's viewpoint allowing the author to take readers on an unforgettable journey to the front line. Those who were there will never forget Shaggy Ridge, and now those who have only heard the name can learn the reasons why this campaign was so important."



VF 510936 BOMBARDIER ELAINE
(GUNDLACH) GALLAGHER
COASTAL ARTILLERY



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Elaine on the 4th August 2020.

Elaine joined the AWAS in 1943 at Swan Hill and following her initial training was posted to Coastal Artillery (Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale) and discharged, Melbourne, 1946.

Our sincere condolences to Elaine's family and friends at this sad time.

To read more about Elaine's service please refer to AWAS / WRAAC Journal August 2017.

LEST WE FORGET

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
Our memory becomes a treasure*

SICK PARADE

To all our members who are not feeling well, our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member or our Chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh – Editor

BOOK REVIEW SHOOTING THROUGH

BY KATRINA KITTEL

In September 1943, Italy capitulated to the Allies. Seizing the moment, prisoners of war walked out of Italian rice farms dotted across the Piedmont plain west of Milan.

Escape, for most was easy. But what came next, the evasion phase of their war – the weeks and months on the loose, foot-slogging to the frontier, identifying friend from foe, scrapping up a feed, weighing up needs for shelter and the dangers for Italian helpers, discovering the breadth of the Italian resistance – was in all likelihood more taxing and nagging on their resilience than the longer periods spent within camps. During their treks along “freedom trails”, Australians teamed with New Zealander, British and South African POWs.

Drawing on firsthand accounts

and archival records, historian Katrina Kittel weaves stories of escaper groups through time and theme, revealing the outcomes that befell them. *Shooting Through* includes a foreword by Professor Peter Monteath. Appendices contain nominal rolls of Australian and New Zealand POWs interned at Campo 106.

Katrina has been writing about POWs since 2012 including articles for Sabretache (Journal of Military Historical Society of Australia), Department of Veterans' Affairs Our Mob Serving Country website, and for online and print publications by military unit associations. Katrina holds a Bachelor of Arts (History), Bachelor of Science, and a master's degree. Her father was a POW in Italy.

Shooting Through in paperback format will be sold through online re-sellers (Amazon, booktopia, Angus & Robertson, Fishpond, etc) as well as selected bookstores. Ebook may be available in 2020.

Katrina also offers direct sales, please refer to payment information below.

P: Katrina Kittel, P.O. Box 36,
Nelson Bay NSW 2315

E: katrinakittel@yahoo.com.au
or katrinakittel19@gmail.com

TO PURCHASE *SHOOTING THROUGH*

AU \$35.00 incl. GST

One copy with post and handling (within Australia): \$45.00 (2 copies \$90.00 For more, please ask).

Account Name: KATRINA
ANNE KITTEL

Account number: 537573001

BSB: 650000

To ensure that your payment is identified, include **YOUR NAME**

Invoice / Receipt will be issued.
Cheques will be accepted,
payable to Katrina Kittel.

If you need more information about *Shooting Through*, please look at the following websites.

<https://www.echobooks.com.au/history/shooting-through/>

<http://www.phansw.org.au/tracing-australian-pows-in-italy/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KatrinaKittelAuthorResearcher/>